

## REMARKS

### AMENDMENTS

Applicants replace claims 12-16 with new claims 17-21 herein. These new claims differ only in the express recitation of the inherent “mixture” property of the phthalates from which the claimed esters are produced, as well as that same property in the resulting ester mixtures. No new matter is introduced thereby, as the “mixture” element is inherent in the claimed phthalate-derived esters.

### REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §102/§103

Applicants respectfully submit that as the present claims expressly recite the inherent fact that the claimed esters are mixtures resulting from the hydrogenation of specific mixtures of phthalates, the present rejections are inapplicable. It has been the examiner’s position that the claim language limited the claims to specific compounds, and not mixtures. The amendments address this point. Further, the examiner has argued that the prior art discloses at least one of the specifically claimed compounds. Applicants reiterate their position that the disclosure of a single compound can neither anticipate nor make a claimed mixture obvious. The examiner’s previous arguments do not apply to the present claims.

### CONCLUSION

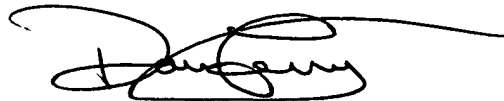
In view of the present amendments and remarks, applicants consider that the

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rejections of record have been obviated and respectfully solicit passage of the application to issue.

Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees to Deposit Account No. 11-0345. Please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
KEIL & WEINKAUF

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Liechty', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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